

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as to read as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (previously amended) A method for preventing or treating Sjögren's syndrome which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of α -fodrin, an antigenic fragment available upon proteolysis of α -fodrin with a protease, which comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, or a salt thereof, wherein the α -fodrin or antigenic fragment has a molecular weight of from about 2K to about 240K.

Claims 15-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (previously added) The method of claim 14, wherein the molecular weight of said α -fodrin or antigenic fragment is from about 100K to about 140K.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)